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**SIXTH DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY IN REDDING-AREA
METHAMPHETAMINE AND MARIJUANA DISTRIBUTION RING**

**Defendant Will Receive Lengthy Prison Sentence and
Forfeit \$176,000 Found Near Marijuana in His Residence**

SACRAMENTO—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a POMPOSO VICTOR VAZQUEZ, JR., 32, of Cottonwood, California (a/k/a “Junior”), pleaded guilty today to possession of marijuana with the intent to distribute it and to using a telephone to facilitate a drug trafficking felony. VAZQUEZ is the sixth and final defendant to plead guilty in this Redding-area drug trafficking ring. Previously, the following defendants each plead guilty to felony charges stemming from their roles in connection with the distribution of methamphetamine throughout Northern California: Juan Carlos Castillo, 24, of Corning, California; Juan Moreno, 28, from Washington state; William Bishop, 30, of Red Bluff, California; Kevin Ross, 38, of Yreka, California; and Tina Ross, 22, of Yreka, California.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Douglas Sprague, who is prosecuting the case, VAZQUEZ directed one of his co-conspirators to deliver approximately two pounds of methamphetamine to a buyer in Anderson, California, in August 2001. Subsequently, when agents arrested VAZQUEZ in Tehama County, VAZQUEZ possessed approximately 40 kilograms (about 88 pounds) of marijuana which he had packaged into approximately 88 one-pound bags for resale. Law enforcement agents also confiscated approximately \$176,000 cash found near that marijuana.

United States District Court Judge Garland E. Burrell, Jr., scheduled VAZQUEZ to be sentenced on December 12, 2003. Under the terms of the Plea Agreement, VAZQUEZ will be required to forfeit the \$176,000 cash found with the marijuana, pay a \$75,000 fine, and the government may withdraw from the Plea Agreement if VAZQUEZ does not get sentenced to 9 years in federal prison.

This case is the product of a joint investigation involving the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement – Redding Regional Office, the Shasta Interagency Narcotics Task Force, the Siskiyou Interagency Narcotics Task Force, the Tehama/Glenn Methamphetamine Task Force and the District Attorney's Office of both Shasta and Tehama counties.